

5. PROGRESSING THE PROPOSAL TO DECLARE CHRISTCHURCH A PEACE CITY

Officer responsible Director of Policy	Authors Jonathan Fletcher, DDI 941-8548, Julie Battersby, DDI 941 8780 Barbara August, DDI 941 8251
--	--

The purpose of this report is to comply with the Strategy and Finance Committee's request that staff report on suggested initiatives to reinforce the declaration of Christchurch as a Peace City.

BACKGROUND

At its May meeting the Strategy and Finance Committee received a deputation from the Peace Foundation and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom requesting that Christchurch be declared a Peace City and proposing a number of initiatives (both short and long term) that the Council might wish to initiate to give meaning and commitment to such a declaration. Since then the Peace Foundation has also made a submission on the draft Plan requesting financial support to establish a full time position to contribute to its peace promotion work.

This report provides an update on a range of initiatives most of which were either suggested by the deputation or arose in the subsequent debate by the standing committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information and recommendations on progressing a range of initiatives to give substance to Christchurch being a "Peace City". Items covered include, welcoming peace signs, a website and website links, a peace park, friendship links with Nagasaki, a peace library and peace archives, peace displays, peace awards, a range of peace festivals, arts and education activities, the possibility of establishing an annual peace festival, and options to progress a Conflict Resolution Centre and the funding of a Peace City Co-ordinator.

WELCOMING PEACE SIGNS

An approach has been made to the Airport Planner at Christchurch International Airport Limited to consider the option of either altering existing signage to include Peace City wording or developing new signage. A report on the options, potential costs and the consultation process will be provided in the near future. The Council's Urban Design section is also undertaking a review of the existing gateway signage and will provide recommendations and costs for inclusion of Peace City signage. A detailed report on recommendations and costs will be provided for the September meeting of the Council.

WEBSITE

A Peace City home page is to be attached to the Christchurch City Council's website outlining Christchurch's progress over the last 20 or so years from its declaration to be Nuclear Weapons Free to the present day. Hot links will be attached through to the Peace Foundation's website and other appropriate peace-focused organisations. Much of the information for this site will come from the display currently being designed for an exhibition in 'Our City'. The Christchurch City Council's web team will put this and any additional information necessary on to the website.

PEACE PARK

It was suggested during May's Strategy and Finance Committee meeting that the park planned for part of the Turners and Growers site would be a suitable site for a Peace Park. This suggestion has been well-received by members of the Central City Revitalisation Team.

A camphor tree, raised from the seed of a tree which survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, has been pledged to the city by the Mayor of Nagasaki during his recent visit. After its arrival and subsequent quarantine period the tree will be planted in a nursery for a year or two until strong enough to be placed in a public park. This could be the first significant tree to be planted in the Peace Park.

FRIENDSHIP LINKS WITH NAGASAKI/HIROSHIMA

The Strategy for Sister Cities provides for friendship links which is a suitable category for a Christchurch-Nagasaki or Christchurch-Hiroshima link.

The criteria for a Friendship City are as follows:

- *The relationship will have a lower profile (than a sister city) both locally and in the partner-city.*
- *The relationship will be of a long-term nature.*
- *The relationship would operate under a memorandum of understanding.*
- *There will be limited resources committed by the Council.*
- *These would be long term relationships but will be reviewed after three years.*
- *Friendship City relationships will not require annual plans of activity nor a formalised committee structure.*

Following the local government elections in Japan in April 2003, it is likely Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki will invite Mayor Garry Moore to visit Nagasaki. A formalised Friendship City Link could be placed on the agenda to be discussed during the visit, and the drawing up of a memorandum of understanding could then follow. At this time there are no plans for the establishment of a friendship link with Hiroshima.

PEACE LIBRARY AND PEACE ARCHIVES

The proposal to establish both a specialist peace collection and a peace archive, the latter concentrating on archival material from Christchurch has been discussed with Sue Sutherland, the Libraries Manager. It makes sense for the specialist collection and the archive to be housed at the same location and there is a need to identify where this might best be. For example if the University of Canterbury is going to re-establish its peace studies courses it would make sense for the University to hold the collection and archive. On the other hand a collection at the University is less accessible than one at the central library. The Libraries Manager suggests that she could initiate discussions with the Peace Foundation, the University Library, and other possible locations to develop a proposal for both the peace collection and peace archive. Part of the development of the proposal would be to provide information on the costs of developing a specialist collection and archive.

The development of an oral history archive is a specialist subset of the above work which the Libraries Manager is also happy to further discuss with the Peace Foundation and others. Beginning to develop this archive is a matter of some urgency as a number of people who could make a valuable oral history contribution are getting very old. The most likely and effective way of progressing this oral history archive is to work with oral history students from the tertiary institutions and fund them to do the gathering and transcribing of oral histories as part of their research and study work. Robyn Chandler, Akomahi project co-ordinator, is contacting the Peace Foundation to discuss the inclusion of the oral history work under the Akomahi umbrella.¹

PEACE MUSEUM/DISPLAY

An historical display covering Christchurch's over 20 year journey towards the declaration of the city being a nuclear weapons-free and more recently a Peace City is currently being put together for display at 'Our City' and will be exhibited from September.

The City Promotions Team leader is in discussion with the Director of the Canterbury Museum for a more permanent and comprehensive display.

PEACE AWARD

Each year the Council and Community Boards acknowledge the volunteer efforts of members of this community through the presentation of Civic and Community Board Awards. The presentation of these awards happens around November each year.

As this is the 20th anniversary of Christchurch being declared a Nuclear Weapons-Free city it is proposed that as part of the Civic Award process for 2002, an additional five special awards for contribution to the Peace Movement could be made. These awards would be made to people who were active in Canterbury in promoting peace. The awards panel to recommend the recipients could consist of the Mayor, the Chair of the Strategy and Finance Committee and Dr Kate Dewes.

Following on from the awards this year, further investigation will be undertaken by staff, in conjunction with the Peace Foundation to consider other award opportunities to recognise the constant commitment to peace in our city.

¹ Note: The Akomahi project links tertiary institutions and community groups for mutual benefit.

PEACE FESTIVAL

"Kids 4 Peace"

On 5 July the International Relations Team, with the support of Globalnet, held a Kids 4 Peace event as part of this year's KidsFest programme. Children from each of our six Sister Cities as well as children from local schools have made thousands of paper cranes which will be hung at Friendship Corner by the Bridge of Remembrance.

A fun lunchtime concert in the Square was also held, the highlight of which was a performance by a troupe of entertainers called 'Ticklish Allsorts' from our sister city of Adelaide. Local children representing our three Asian sister cities also performed. These performances were followed by a march along High Street and City Mall to Friendship Corner. It is recommended that the Strategy and Resources Committee ask the Council to include in the KidsFest programme every year at least one event with a peace theme.

An Annual Peace Festival?

Beyond this, the Peace Foundation is suggesting the development of an annual Peace Festival in Christchurch. Such a festival would need to be integrated into the overall calendar of festivals and events and requires the consideration of the Festivals and Events Subcommittee to determine suitable timing, venue and costs. It is recommended that the Strategy and Finance Committee endorse the concept of such a festival and refer this idea to the Festivals and Events Subcommittee requesting that they develop a detailed proposal in consultation with the Peace Foundation and other interested parties.

ART EXHIBITION

An approach has been made to the Centre of Contemporary Art to consider Peace as the theme for the 2003 Sister Cities children's art exchanges. The initial response has been favourable and it is currently being given more detailed consideration.

PEACE EDUCATION AND STUDIES

There are a number of community peace education activities that will take place in the near future that will provide opportunity for the citizens of Christchurch to be involved.

Gandhi Exhibition

On 2 August this year David Lange will open a 13 week exhibition of photographs of Gandhi. The exhibition is being hosted by the Canterbury Museum. The Continuing Education section of University of Canterbury will be providing a lecture series at the Canterbury Museum during the exhibition. 2 August is the start of Schools Peace Week in New Zealand.

"Bombs Away"

This exhibition is presently being held in the Physic Room at the Arts Centre. It is an exhibition of five responses to Government Propaganda on Nuclear Testing. The exhibition of videos, artworks and photos is by national artists.

Visit by Ambassador Miguel Marin Bosch

Ambassador Miguel Marin Bosch is Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico and also the Chair of the UN Study on Disarmament and Non Proliferation Education. Ambassador Bosch will visit Christchurch on 15 and 16 September and will hold public meetings in the city.

"A-bomb Exhibition"

Recently the Nagasaki and Hiroshima A-Bomb exhibition was held at the Canterbury Museum. This exhibition was sponsored by Nagasaki City and attracted good local interest. The exhibition has moved to Wellington and on to Auckland. It will also be shown in Dunedin in the near future. Mayor Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki has since visited Christchurch and met with Mayor Garry Moore.

UNIVERSITY STUDY

Plans are underway to re-activate the Peace Studies programme at stage one level at the University of Canterbury next year.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTRE

The city and its surrounding areas were used by the Government as a safe venue for international peace talks during the Bougainville uprising.

To have the city recognised internationally as a conflict resolution centre and to be able to meet the needs of organisations involved in international conflict resolution will take a great deal of time and work. However, there is a recognised need for an international conflict resolution centre in the southern hemisphere.

In the northern hemisphere there is the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution which has played a significant role in negotiations over northern hemisphere conflicts. This Centre won the 1995 UNESCO prize for Peace Education and attracts considerable international support and sponsorship including the UNESCO Chair of Peace Human Rights and Democracy. It also holds a number of courses and seminars that attract international participants and has visiting faculty members from throughout the world (including our own Dr Kevin Clements, who now works for International Alert in London).

To develop an International Centre for Conflict Resolution in Christchurch would have numerous benefits beyond the contribution that such a centre would make to peace. These benefits would include the raising of the positive international profile of Christchurch; the economic benefits of hosting meetings and conferences; and the 'cluster effect'. That is, with a centre established here Christchurch would, for example, become the logical place for education programmes in dispute resolution and peace studies, for training peace-keepers and for international seminars and events that require a safe politically neutral venue.

PEACE CITY CO-ORDINATOR

In its submission to the Annual Plan the Peace Foundation requested \$50,000 (\$35,000 salary and \$15,000 office costs) to fund the establishment of one full-time position to supplement the part-time and temporary staff (currently 5) the Foundation employs either as volunteers or under employment schemes and the work of Dr Kate Dewes and Commander Robert Green. In speaking in support of her submission Dr Dewes said that the Foundation had survived up to now on the dedication and commitment of those that worked for it and by subsidising its local activities from funding it got from some of the International and Government supported work she undertakes. The advancing of the Peace City concepts described in this report require the active involvement of the Peace Foundation and the Council should consider providing the Foundation with some support.

As the Council has capped the grants fund, the Annual Plan Subcommittee is recommending that all requests for new funding, including this one, be declined.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Strategy and Finance Committee:

1. Recommend to the Council that it confirm its earlier decision to declare Christchurch a Peace City.
2. Note the progress on the initiatives to give meaning to Christchurch as a Peace City outlined in this report.
3. Confirm that it wishes to consider a report on options and costs for the placement of "Peace City" signs at prominent entry points into Christchurch.
4. Confirm that it supports the consideration of the inclusion of a Peace Park in part of the park to be developed on the Turners and Growers site.
5. Support the Mayor discussing the establishment of a friendship link with Nagasaki on the next occasion that he meets the Mayor of that city.

6. Request the Libraries Manager to bring back for its consideration a costed proposal for the development of a peace library and peace archive after consulting with the Peace Foundation, the University of Canterbury and other relevant organisations.
7. Support the Peace Foundation through the Akomahi project developing an oral history archive as part of the peace archive.
8. Recommend to the Council that as part of the 20th anniversary of Christchurch being declared Nuclear Weapons Free the Civic Awards for 2002 include an additional five special awards for contribution to the Peace Movement. Further that the panel to recommend the recipients of this award consist of the Mayor, the Chair of the Strategy and Finance Committee and Dr Kate Dewes.
9. Recommend that the Council ask the Festivals and Events Subcommittee to investigate and bring back for consideration costed options for the development of a peace festival as part of the annual programme of festivals and events.
10. Ask the Peace Foundation to investigate and in due course report back, on the best way to progress the development of a Southern Hemisphere Centre for Conflict Resolution in Christchurch.
11. Record its thanks to the Peace Foundation and Dr Kate Dewes in particular, for the work that it has done and ask the Committee Secretary to write to the Foundation thanking it for its ongoing work and confirming the Council's commitment to Christchurch as a peace city and its willingness to work co-operatively with the Foundation.

**Chair's
Recommendation:**

For discussion.